

REMARKS

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action of the Examiner mailed April 3, 2008. Currently, claims 1-8 remain pending. Claims 1-7 have been rejected and claim 8 has been objected to. With this paper, claim 1 has been amended and claims 9-15 have been added, as noted below. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification, claims and drawings as filed. No new matter has been added. Favorable consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claim 9 represents claim 8 rewritten in independent form. New claims 10-15 mirror dependent claims 2-7, but depend from new claim 9.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 4-5, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Hantscho (US 3,559,573). In order to anticipate, the cited reference must disclose each and every claimed feature and element, in at least as much detail as is claimed. Hantscho fails to do so.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. An ink fountain for a printing machine, having a base with a blade holder, in which said blade holder comprises a number of adjacent sectors which can be moved by adjusting means in order to vary the distance between said sectors and the circumference of an ink fountain roller, said ink fountain additionally comprising a blade which is interposed between said sectors and the circumference of the ink fountain roller and which has a continuous edge intended to maintain a defined ink thickness on the ink fountain roller, the ink thickness being adjusted by said continuous edge of the blade and defined by the position of said sectors, which is transmitted to said blade, wherein said blade rests along a plane thereof directly on a surface of said sectors and is held fixedly with respect to said blade holder.

As can be seen, one feature of the claimed invention is that the blade be disposed relative to a surface of the sectors such that a plane of the blade is in direct contact with the surface of the sectors. Figure 2 of the present application provides an illustrative but non-limiting example of a blade disposed relative to the sectors such that a plane of the blade is in contact with the surface of the sectors. Hantscho does not disclose this claimed feature.

Rather, and as shown in Figure 5 of Hantscho, the reference discloses that when the blade is interposed between the sectors and the circumference of the ink fountain roller, the sectors 20a bear against the blade 18a only along a contact edge or line. On either side of this contact edge, the blade 18a does not rest on any support. Thus, the blade does not rest along a plane directly on the surface of the sectors as is currently claimed. This is a claimed feature missing from the cited reference.

It will be appreciated, therefore, that Hantscho fails to disclose that the blade rests along a plane directly on a surface of said sectors. Thus, Hantscho cannot be considered as anticipating the claimed invention. Further, there is no motivation or suggestion for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Hantscho to achieve the device as currently claimed. Applicants submit that claims 4-5 and 7 are also in condition for allowance as they depend from claim 1 and add significant limitations to further distinguish them from the prior art. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 2-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hantscho (US 3,559,573) in view of Blackwell (US 5,778,785). Claim 1, from which claims 2 and 3 depend, is distinguished above as patentable over Hantscho. Blackwell is not believed to remedy the noted shortcomings of Hantscho, and thus claim 1 is patentable over both references. Claims 2 and 3 include the elements of claim 1 and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons. Claims 2 and 3 also add further distinguishing features. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hantscho (US 3,559,573) in view of Fischer et al. (US 5,692,043). Claim 1, from which claim 6 depends, is distinguished above as patentable over Hantscho. Fischer et al. are not believed to remedy the noted shortcomings of Hantscho, and thus claim 1 is patentable over both references. Claim 6 includes the elements of claim 1 and thus is patentable for at least the same reasons. Claim 6 also adds further distinguishing features. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

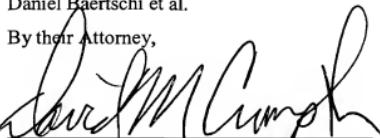
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Baertschi et al.

By their Attorney,

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